

[Edit Search](#) | [FOCUS](#) | [Print/Save Options](#) | [E-Mail](#)

Search Terms: Oshinsky

[Document List](#)
[Expanded List](#)
[KWIC™](#)
[Full](#)
[◀ Previous](#) **Document 25 of 53.** [Next ▶](#)

 Copyright 1998 The New York Times Company
 The New York Times

[View Related Topics](#)

September 20, 1998, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 6; Page 26; Column 5; Magazine Desk**LENGTH:** 312 words**HEADLINE:** Should the Mississippi Files Have Been Reopened?**BODY:**

'Should the Mississippi Files Have Been Reopened' (by David **Oshinsky** and Richard Rubin, Aug. 30)? Yes, yes, yes. In the fall of 1964, my family and I (I was 15) moved from New Rochelle, N.Y., to Greenwood, Miss. I had recently attended a summer camp in upstate New York run by Quakers (where Andrew Goodman had been a counselor the summer before and where Bonnie Raitt had been a fellow camper). When news came of the three killings, I was terrified because I knew that my family and I were going to move to Greenwood when the summer ended.

When I entered my sophomore year there, the high school was all white, still segregated. The Ku Klux Klan dropped racist leaflets via helicopter all over the city. I tried by mail to contact the civil rights worker I knew to be nearby, but when he called me, my father forbade any further contact. My mother was accosted with a rifle in a grocery store because her car had New York State license plates.

In my senior year, token integration began. Two black students, one male and one female, entered Greenwood High. The girl, Mayrene, was in my gym class. She looked lost and confused, so I tried to help her with her locker, gym clothes, etc. and walked out into the bleachers in the gym with her. When I got home, my twin brother told me that everyone in the school said I was a Commie.

Later that year, the other students opened the two black students' lockers (we had no locks) and poured ink over their books and belongings. When Mayrene said hello to me in the hall, I was afraid to look her in the eyes. I have never forgiven myself -- ever. I finally left Greenwood and went to college in New Orleans, where I have remained.

I think that those who had anything to do with the civil rights violations (atrocities) in those years should be exposed as nakedly as possible.

Nancy C. Harris
 New Orleans

LOAD-DATE: September 20, 1998
[◀ Previous](#) **Document 25 of 53.** [Next ▶](#)